

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 101551Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1994

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PPD-SETUBAL VIOLENCE

REF: (A) LISBON 1277 (NOTAL); (B) LISBON 1279

SUMMARY: RECRIMINATIONS HAVE FOLLOWED IN WAKE OF WEEKEND ATTACK ON
PPD RALLY: SOCIALISTS DENOUNCE VIOLENCE, PPD DENOUNCES PCP,
FAR LEFT GROUPS CONDEMN PPD. IN MEANTIME LOW-LEVEL POLITICAL
DISTURBANCES CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

1. BRIEF MARCH 9 GOP COMMUNIQUE ON WEEKEND VIOLENCE IN SETUABL
CITED EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE, ONE DEATH, AND AT LEAST 25 INJURIES.
COMMUNIQUE "ABSOLUTELY CONDEMNS" SUCH OCCURRANCES AND SAID OFFICIAL
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INQUIRY WAS UNDERWAY. SETUBAL VIOLENCE WAS LEAD STORY IN

MARCH 10 PRESS INCLUDING PHOTOS OF INJURED ENGLISH JOURNALIST CHRISTOPHER REED.

2. MARCH 9 PPD COMMUNIQUE ATTACKED PCP "AND ITS SATELLITES" FOR TRYING TO PLACE APRIL ELECTIONS IN DANGER." PPD CHARGED THAT BECAUSE OF "THE LACK OF A POPULAR FOLLOWING, THESE PSEUDO PARTIES NEED TO IMPOSE TERROR AND VIOLENCE, WHICH UNTIL TODAY HAD FOUND THE AUTHORITIES SO COMPLACENT AND LAX THAT THEY HAD TO BE CONSIDERED ACCOMPLICES." COMMUNIQUE NOTED RISE IN VIOLENCE SINCE FIRST ATTACK ON PPD MEETING IN CASTRO VERDE LAST JULY BY PRO-PCP DEMONSTRATORS AND CLAIMED THAT UEC MEMBERS WERE RECOGNIZED AMONG DEMONSTRATORS IN SETUBAL.

3. PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST (PS) ALSO RELEASED MARCH 9 COMMUNIQUE CON-DEMNING RECENT RISE IN CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE. PS COMMUNIQUE SAID "PARTIES AND EXTREMIST GROUPS" ARE TRYING TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF INSECURITY IN ORDER TO PREVENT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS." COMMUNIQUE STATED SACKINGS OF TWO PS HEADQUARTERS BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS ARE EXAMPLES OF RISE IN VIOLENCE WHICH CULMINATED IN PPD-SETUBAL INCIDENT. COMMUNIQUE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY PIN WAVE OF VIOLENCE ON PCP OR OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES.

4. MARCH 8 DIARIO DE NOTICIAS CARRIED PORTIONS OF LEFTIST UDP COMMUNIQUE ATTACKING POLICE AND BRANDING PPD A "PARTY OF BIG CAPITALISTS." NOTICIAS ALSO REPORTED LUAR COMMUNIQUE STATING PPD LEADERS SHOULD HAVE ACCEPTED WILL OF MAJORITY WHO SHOUTED "DEATH TO CAPITALISM" AND OPPOSED MEETING TAKING PLACE.

5. MARCH 7 PPD GATHERING IN OPORTO WAS INTERRUPTED BY LEFTIST DEMONSTRATORS, WHO HAD TO BE CONTROLLED BY POLICE UNTIL END OF MEETING. NO INJURIES OR SERIOUS DAMAGE REPORTED. MARCH 8 PPD MEETING IN VILA DE CONDE IN NORTH WAS TARGET OF SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION.

BOTH LOCAL AND OPORTO POLICE REFUSED TO INTERVENE AND SUGGESTED PPD CALL IN ARMY. ARMY ARRIVED AND MEETING CONTINUED WITHOUT INCIDENT. SEVERAL CARS DAMAGED BUT NO INJURIES REPORTED.

6. COMMENT: SETUBAL VIOLENCE HAS LED TO STRONGEST ATTACK ON PCP BY PPD TO DATE. PREVIOUSLY, ONLY THE SOCIALISTS OPENLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CRITICIZED PCP ACTIONS. UNLIKE SETUBAL VIOLENCE, INCIDENTS SUCH AS THOSE AT PPD MEETINGS IN NORTH HAVE BECOME COMMONPLACE IN RECENT MONTHS.

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